

MARVEL<sup>®</sup>  
COMICS



AUG  
#11

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

DEFALCO  
FRENZ  
WILLIAMSON

THE NEXT GENERATION  
OF AVENGERS!

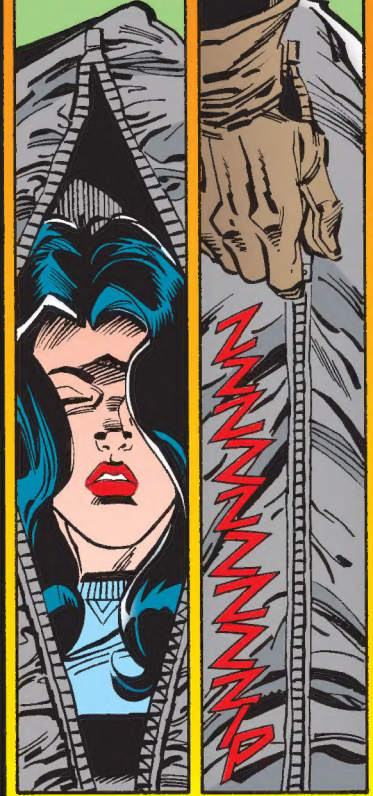
# A NEXT

THE NEW AVENGERS  
BATTLE THEIR  
DEADLIEST FOES  
AND FACE A MAJOR  
TURNING POINT...

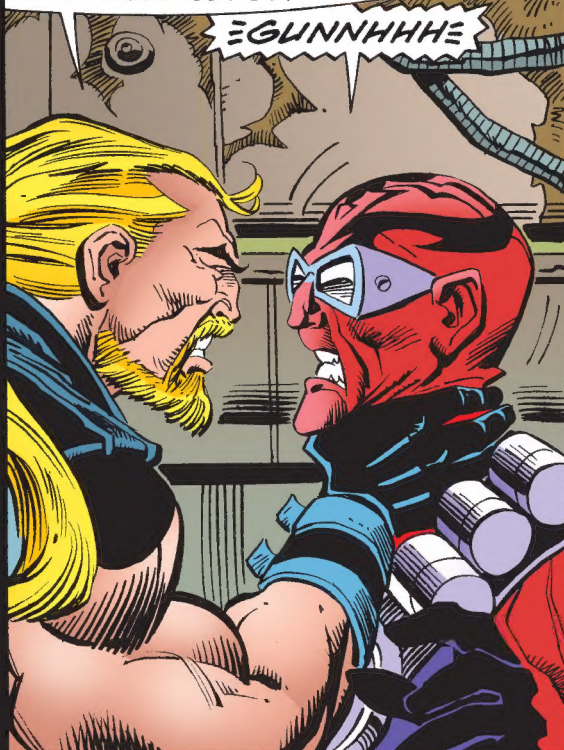
CRUCIBLE







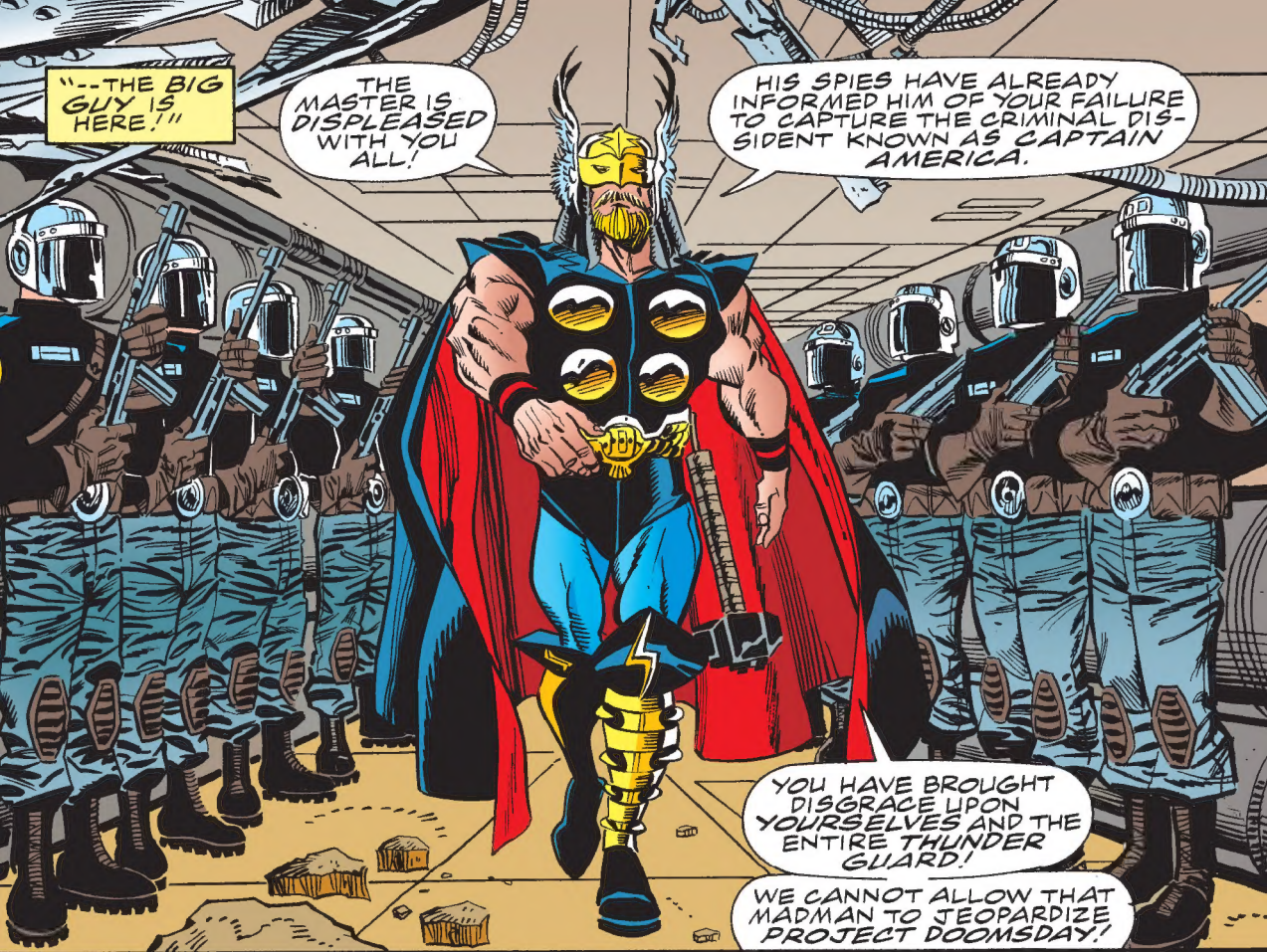
GET OFF MY BACK, PINGER-- YOU SADISTIC FREAK-- OR I'LL SHOW YOU EXACTLY HOW I FEEL ABOUT KILLING SOMEONE IN COLD BLOOD!



STAND DOWN, STORMTROOPER! YOU WANT TO COOL PINGER, DO IT ON YOUR TIME!







"--THE BIG GUY IS HERE!"

THE MASTER IS DISPLEASED WITH YOU ALL!

HIS SPIES HAVE ALREADY INFORMED HIM OF YOUR FAILURE TO CAPTURE THE CRIMINAL DISIDENT KNOWN AS CAPTAIN AMERICA.

YOU HAVE BROUGHT DISGRACE UPON YOURSELVES AND THE ENTIRE THUNDER GUARD!

WE CANNOT ALLOW THAT MADMAN TO JEOPARDIZE PROJECT DOOMSDAY!

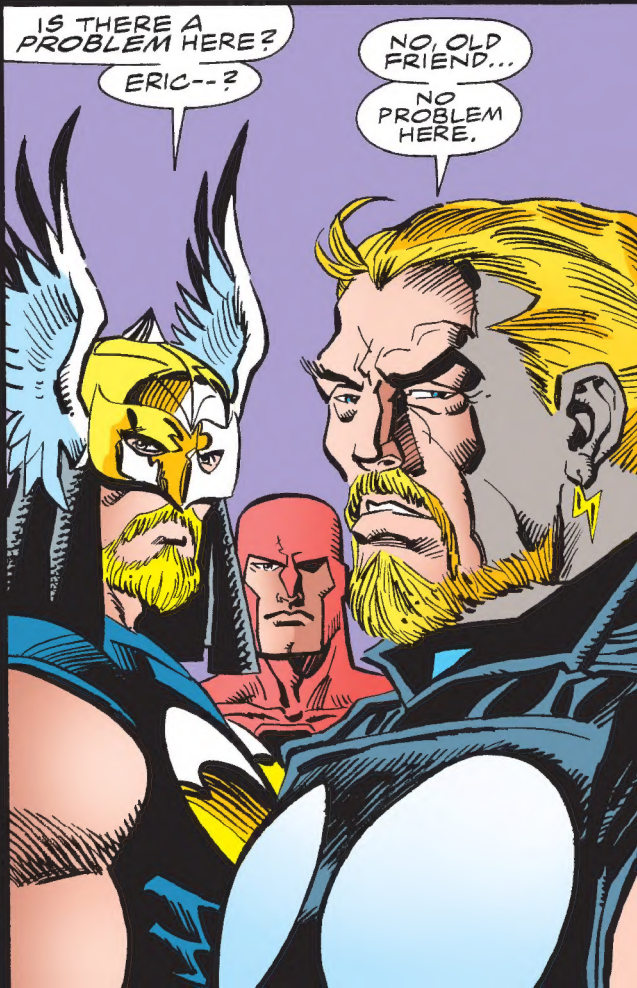


THE MASTER SECRETLY ARRIVED IN THE CITY EARLIER THIS MORNING, AND HAS ALREADY BEGUN THE FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR-- WHY IS PINCHER HOLDING HIS NECK?

WAS HE INJURED IN BATTLE?

NO, DONAR...

NOT IN BATTLE.



IS THERE A PROBLEM HERE?

ERIC--?

NO, OLD FRIEND...

NO PROBLEM HERE.



TWENTY-SEVEN HOURS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE NEW AVENGERS ARRIVED ON AN ALTERNATE VERSION OF THEIR EARTH, A PARALLEL REALITY WHERE THE NAZIS WON WORLD WAR II, ONE THAT IS PRESENTLY RULED BY DOCTOR DOOM AND HIS SUPER-POWERED THUNDER GUARD.

VON DOOM PLANS TO USE HIS NEW UNIVERSAL CUBE TO OPEN THE DIMENSIONAL GATEWAY--

--AND INVADE EVERY EARTH HE CAN FIND!

HE'S GOING TO PERSONALLY CONDUCT THE FINAL TESTS TOMORROW IN CENTRAL PARK--

--AND WE MUST STOP HIM AT ANY COST!

STAN LEE  
PRESENTS:

**A**NEXT

# CRUCIBLE!

TOM DEFALCO & RON FRENZ--WORDS, PLOT & PENCILS  
AL MILGROM--FINISHED ART  
BOB SHAREN--COLORIST  
JIM NOVAK--LETTERER  
BOB HARRAS--MASTER

CONSIDER IT DONE, POPS.

I ASSUME THE BIG D PLANS TO VIDEO THIS EVENT FOR POSTERITY...

ANY CHANCE I CAN SNAG A COPY FOR THE FOLKS BACK HOME?

D'ohhh!

BLUESTREAK ASIDE, WE ALL UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF THIS MISSION, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

WE WON'T LET YOU DOWN, SIR.

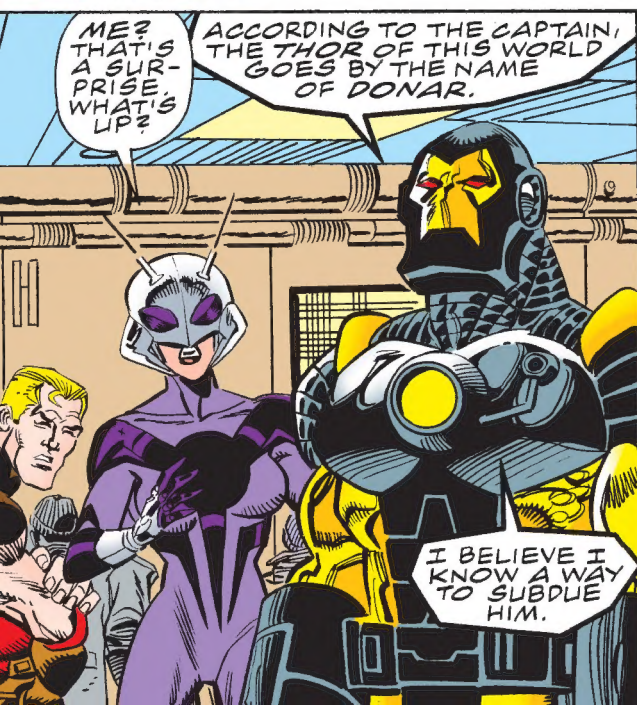
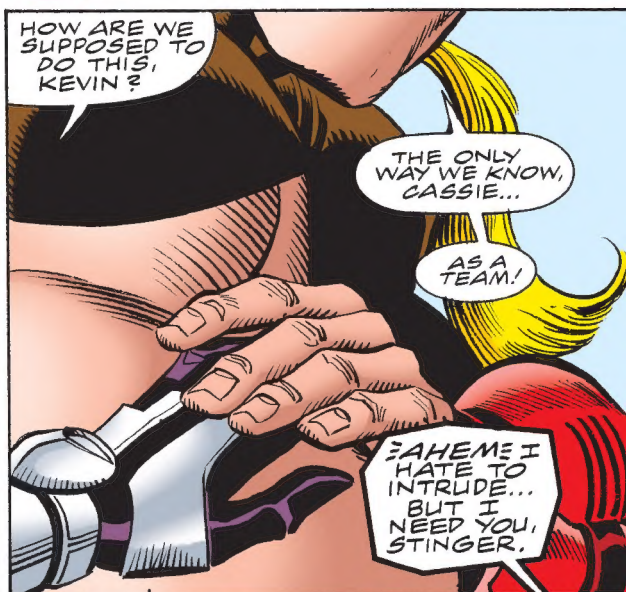
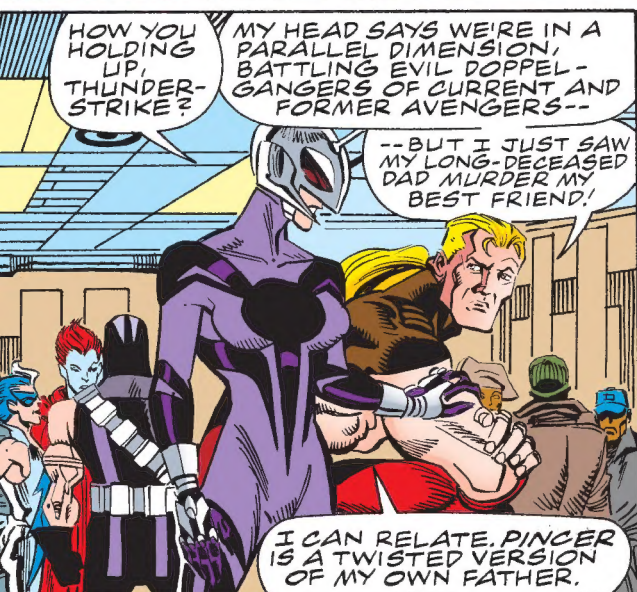
I WISH I WAS HALF AS CONFIDENT AS MAIN-FRAME AND THUNDERSTRIKE--

--B-BUT I'M SO NERVOUS I THINK I'M GONNA BARF!

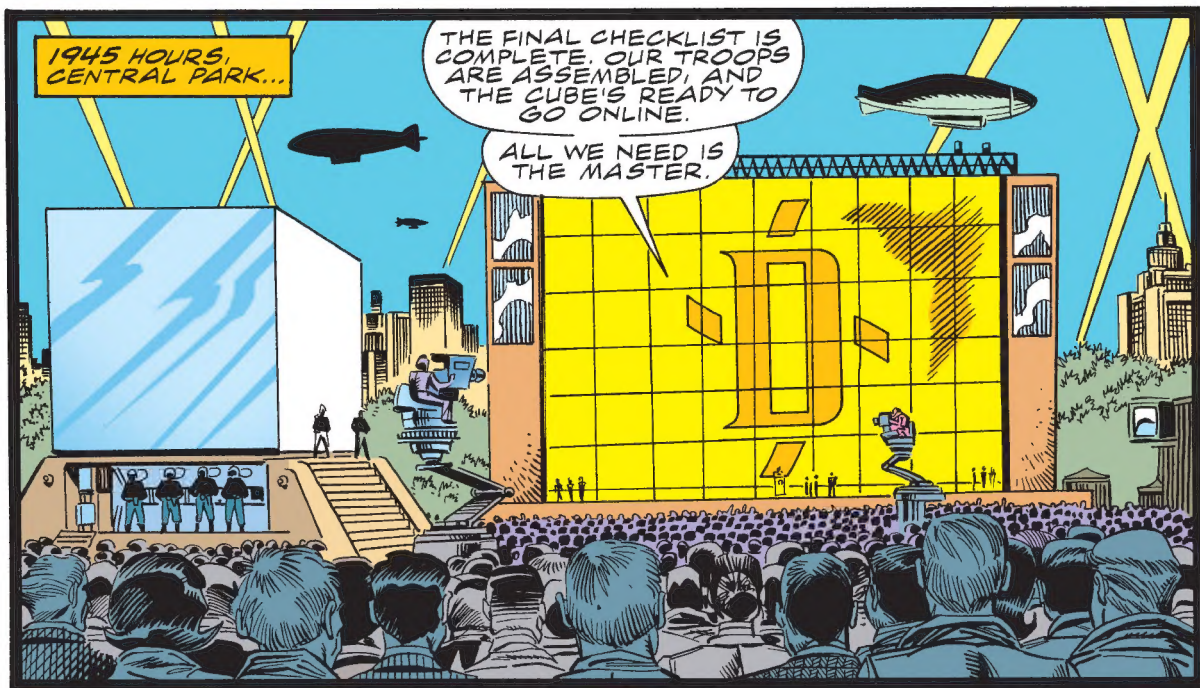
BE AT EASE, J2.

I SENSE THAT YOU WILL ACQUIT YOURSELF WITH GREAT HONOR.





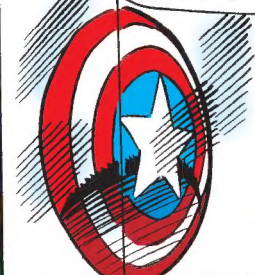




YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB, ZEMO. I SEE YOU EVEN BROUGHT HIS FAVORITE PIECE OF MEMORABILIA.

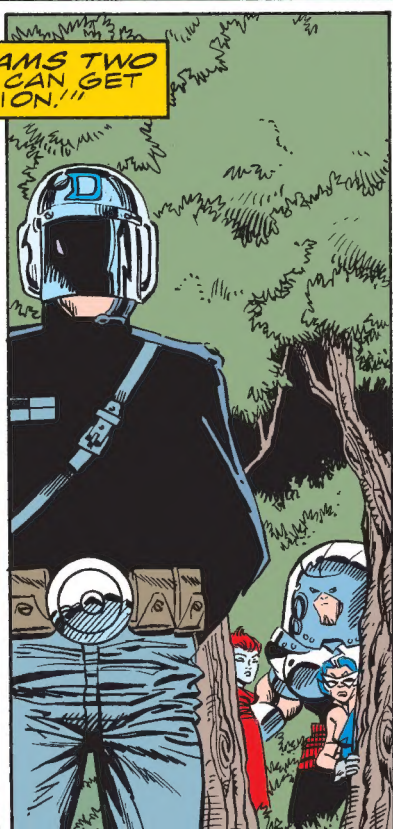
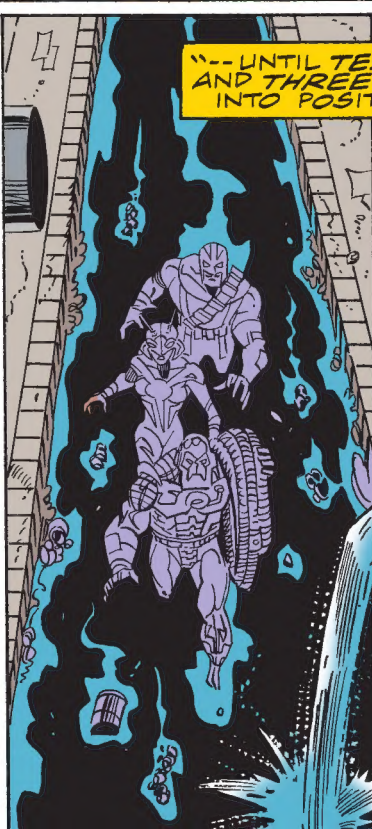
YES, DR. RICHARDS. A GIFT FROM THE RED SKULL--

--TAKEN FROM THE CORPSE OF THE ORIGINAL CAPTAIN AMERICA!



SIR, THAT SHIELD MUST HAVE BELONGED TO YOUR COUNTERPART, AND-- IS THAT REED RICHARDS OF THE FANTASTIC FIVE UP THERE?

THERE IS NO FF-- FOUR OR FIVE-- ON THIS WORLD.





"FACE FRONT, AVENGERS!"

"THE GUEST OF HONOR HAS FINALLY ARRIVED!"

DOOM!  
DOOM!  
DOOM!  
DOOM!

LOYAL CITIZENS, TODAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT!

WE WILL SOON FREE OUR BROTHER EARTHS FROM THE TERRIBLE BURDEN OF INDIVIDUAL THOUGHT--

--AND GRANT THEM THE RAPTURE THAT CAN ONLY COME FROM BLIND OBEDIENCE!

DO YOU COPY, TEAM TWO?

INITIATE THE DISTRACTION ON MY MARK--!

LIHMM...YEAH... WE'RE GOOD TO GO, SIR! JUST SAY THE WORD, AND WE'LL--

oboy!

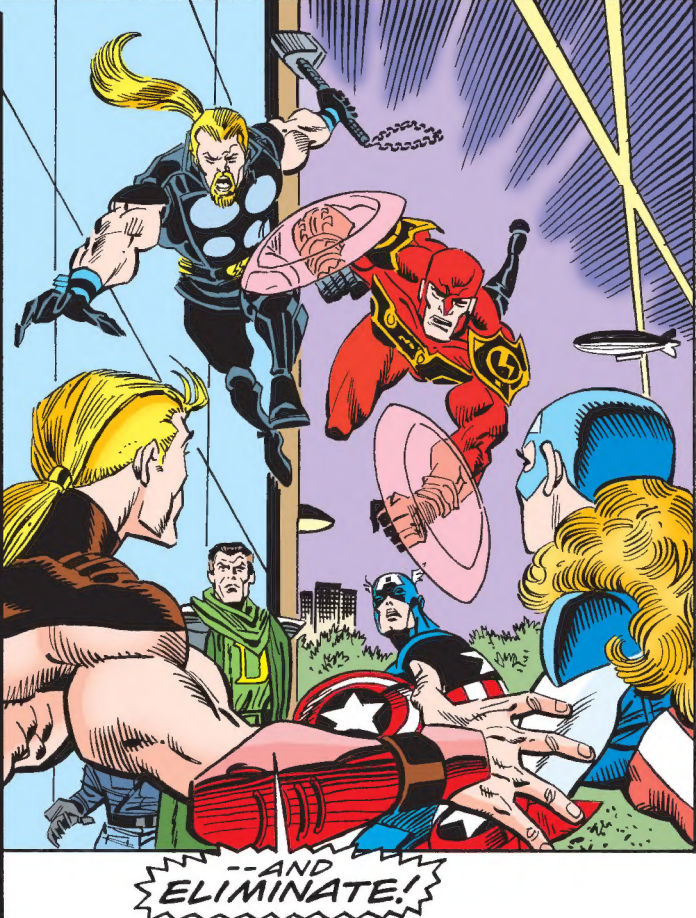
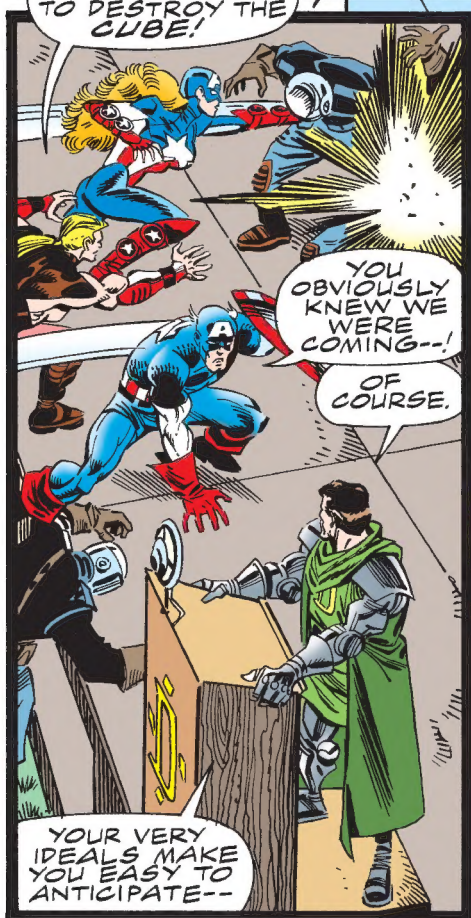
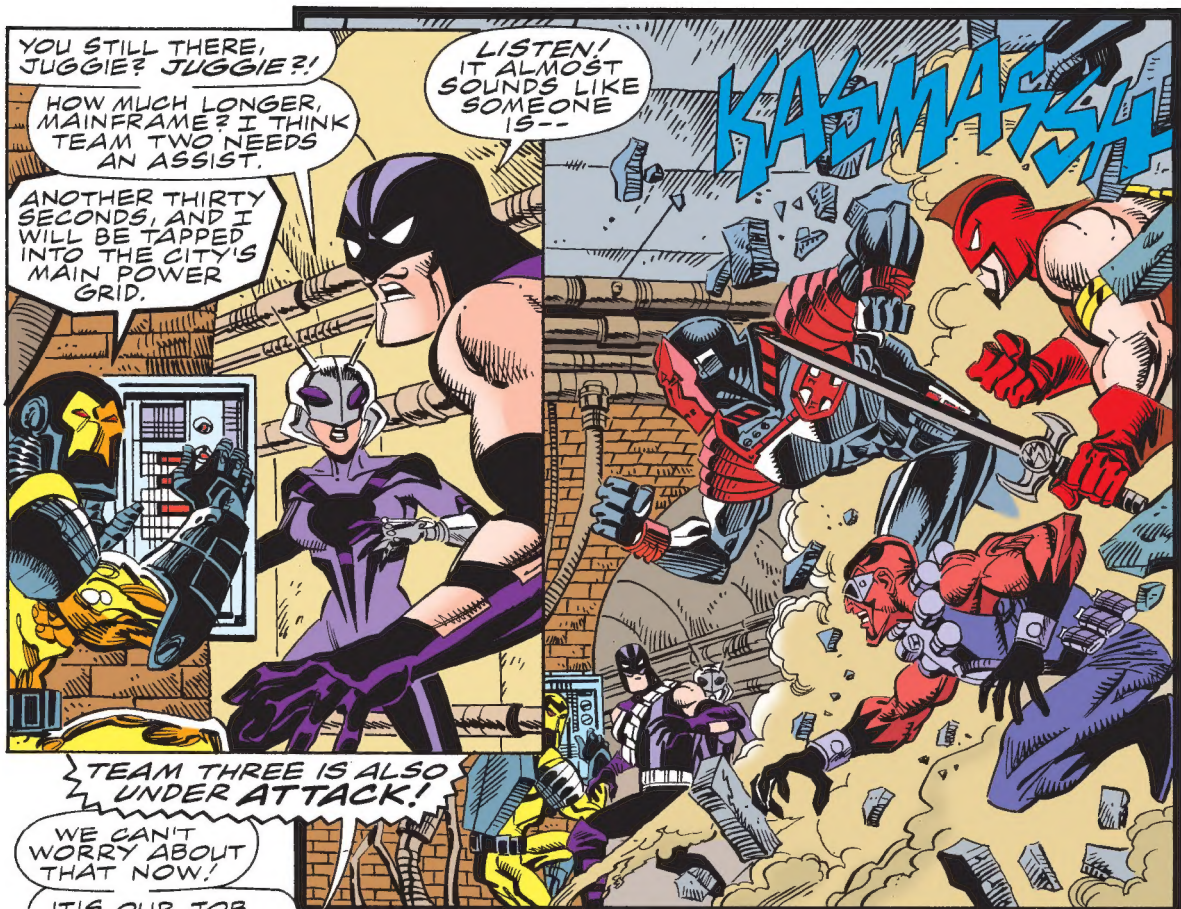
YOU OKAY, JUGGERNAUT?

ZRAK!

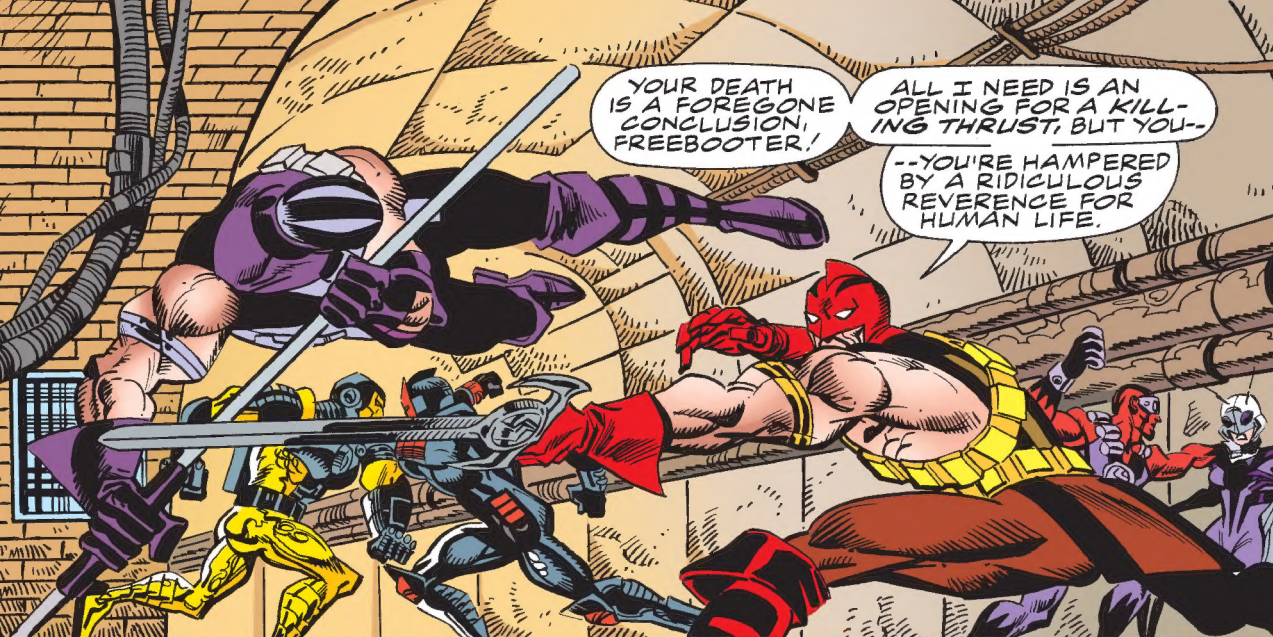
BTOOM!

N-NOT QUITE, SIR!





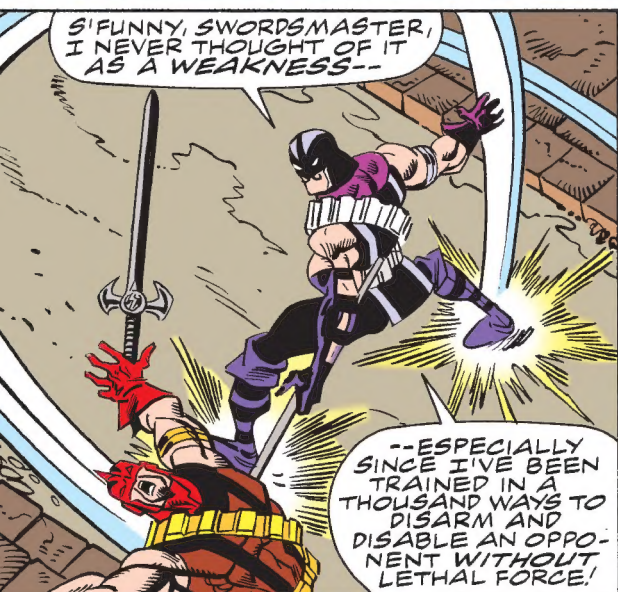




YOUR DEATH IS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION, FREEBOOTER!

ALL I NEED IS AN OPENING FOR A KILLING THRUST, BUT YOU--

--YOU'RE HAMPERED BY A RIDICULOUS REVERENCE FOR HUMAN LIFE.



S'FUNNY, SWORDSMAN, I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT AS A WEAKNESS--

--ESPECIALLY SINCE I'VE BEEN TRAINED IN A THOUSAND WAYS TO DISARM AND DISABLE AN OPPONENT WITHOUT LETHAL FORCE!



CLASS DISMISSED!



A-ARE YOU GOING TO BEG FOR MERCY, LITTLE GIRL?

P-PINER LOVES IT WHEN YOU PLEAD AND CRY FOR YOUR MISERABLE LIFE!

Y-YOU'RE JUST LIKE MY OWN SWEET, LIL' CASSIE!



S-SUCH A SIMPERING AND LINGRATEFUL CHILD!

S-SHE WAS ALWAYS WHINING, ALWAYS NEEDING MY HELP... AND ALWAYS RESENTING ME FOR GIVING IT!



I-I'M GLAD I KILLED HER! S-SHE NEVER WOULD HAVE AMOUNTED TO ANYTHING ON HER OWN--

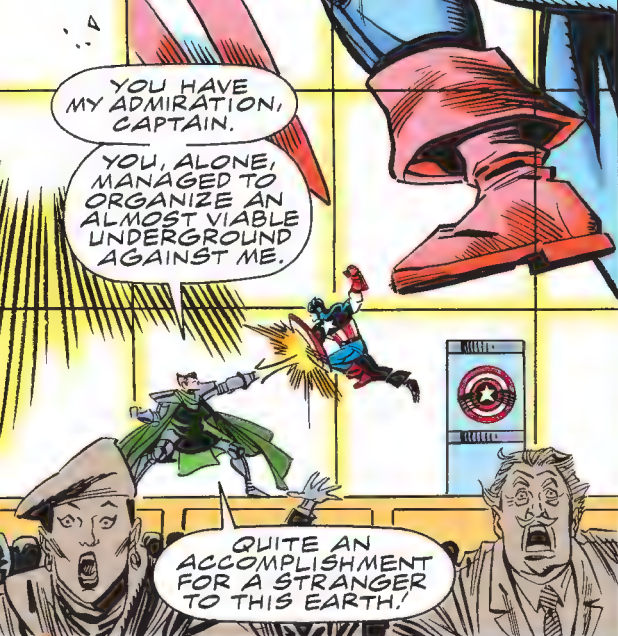
--AND NEITHER WILL YOU!

Y'KNOW SOMETHING, PAL?





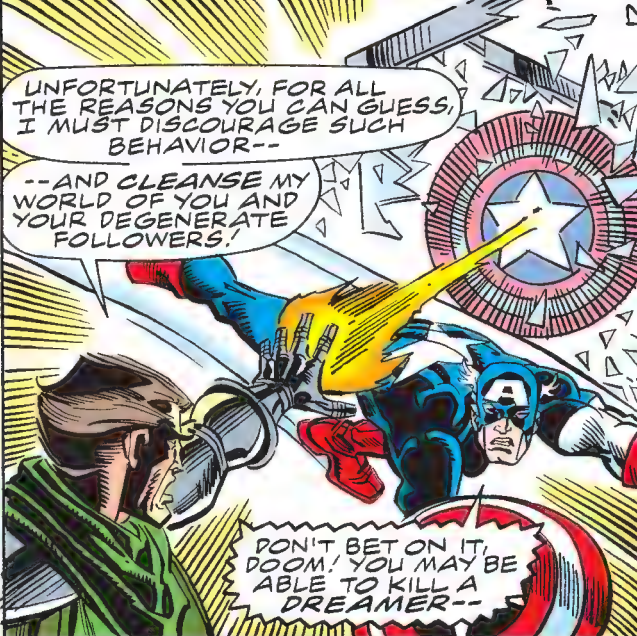




YOU HAVE MY ADMIRATION, CAPTAIN.

YOU, ALONE, MANAGED TO ORGANIZE AN ALMOST VIABLE UNDERGROUND AGAINST ME.

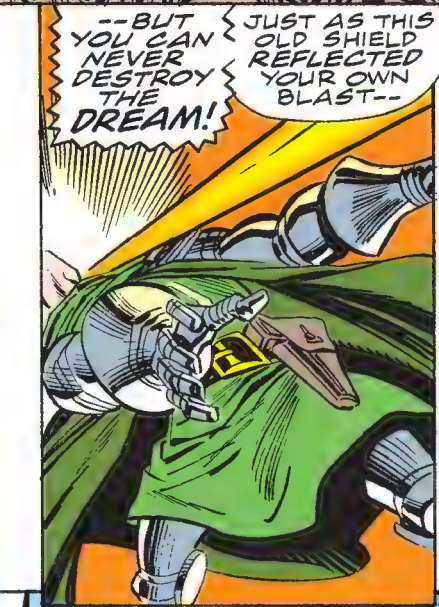
QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR A STRANGER TO THIS EARTH!



UNFORTUNATELY, FOR ALL THE REASONS YOU CAN GUESS, I MUST DISCOURAGE SUCH BEHAVIOR--

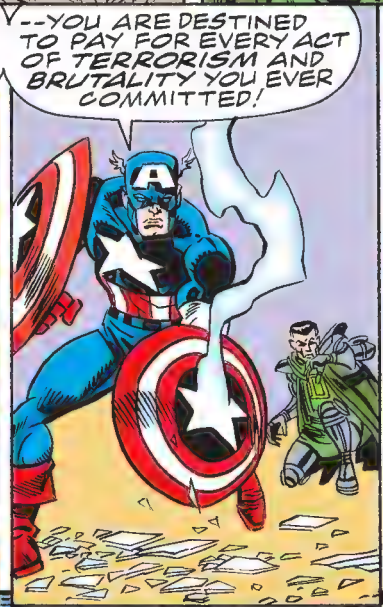
--AND CLEANSE MY WORLD OF YOU AND YOUR DEGENERATE FOLLOWERS!

DON'T BET ON IT, DOOM! YOU MAY BE ABLE TO KILL A DREAMER--



--BUT YOU CAN NEVER DESTROY THE DREAM!

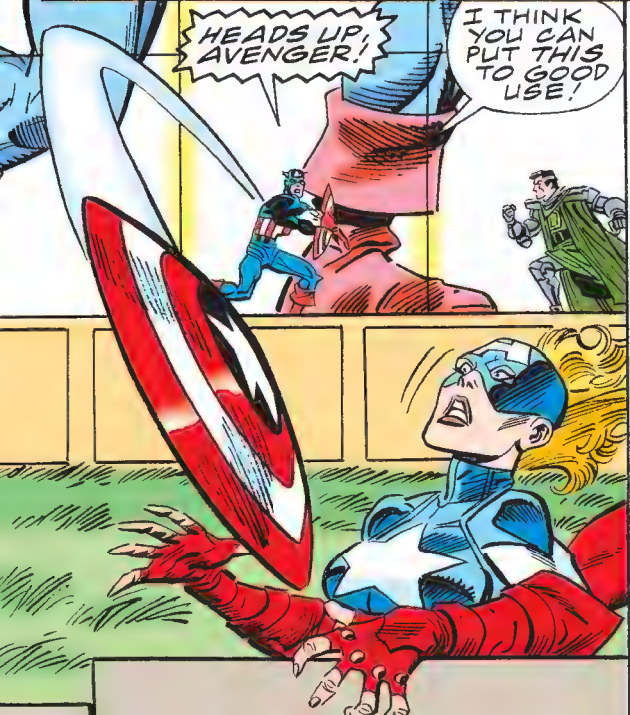
JUST AS THIS OLD SHIELD REFLECTED YOUR OWN BLAST--



--YOU ARE DESTINED TO PAY FOR EVERY ACT OF TERRORISM AND BRUTALITY YOU EVER COMMITTED!

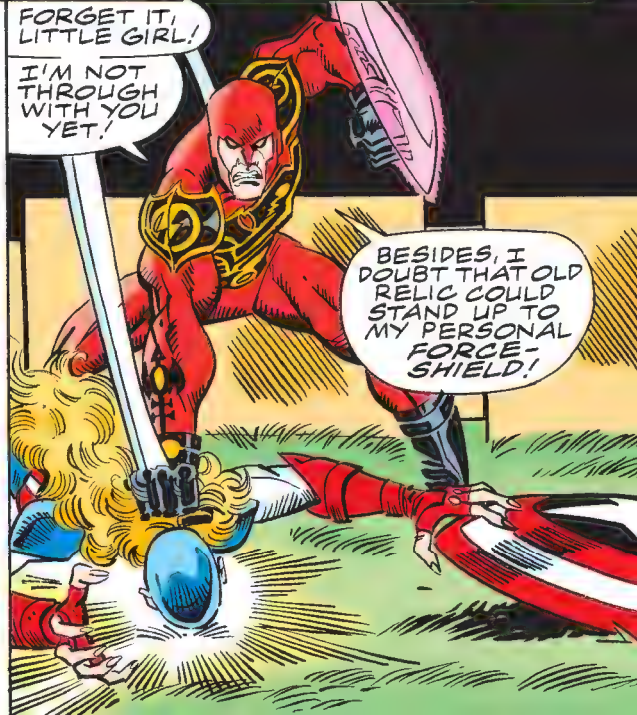


THIS WORLD WILL EVENTUALLY THROW OFF YOUR YOKE OF TYRANNY, AND-- AMERICAN DREAM!



HEADS UP, AVENGER!

I THINK YOU CAN PUT THIS TO GOOD USE!

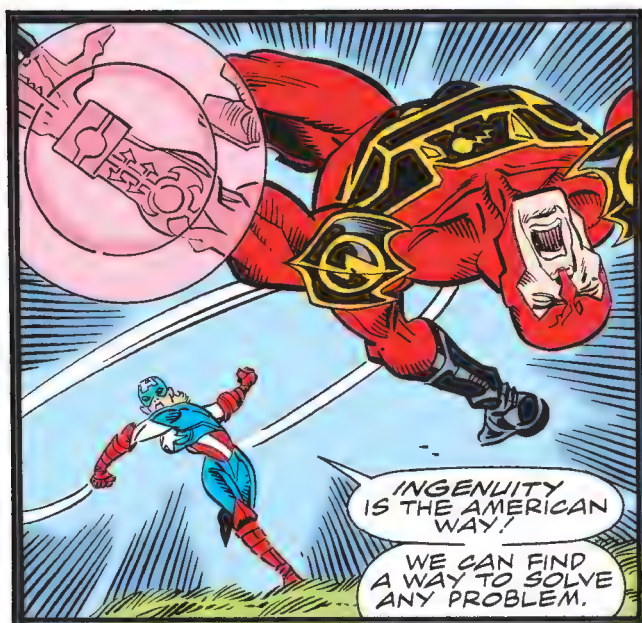
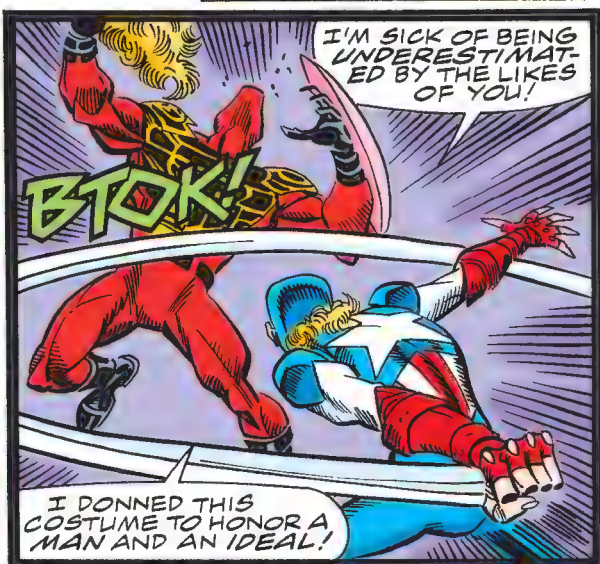
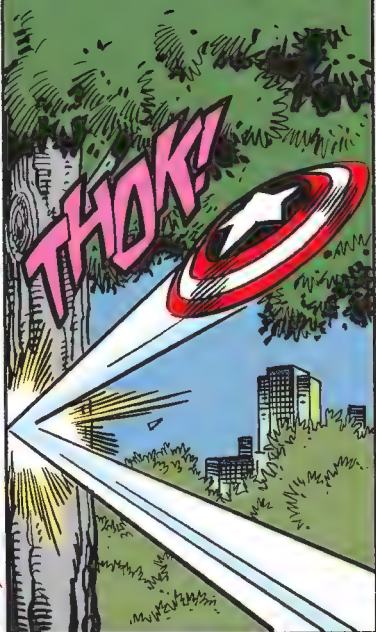


FORGET IT, LITTLE GIRL!

I'M NOT THROUGH WITH YOU YET!

BESIDES, I DOUBT THAT OLD RELIC COULD STAND UP TO MY PERSONAL FORCE-SHIELD!







HOO-BOY! FIGHTING  
A DOPPELGANGER IS THE  
WEIRDEST THING I'VE  
DONE THIS WEEK!

WE SEEM TO  
BE EVENLY  
MATCHED  
EXCEPT FOR  
ONE GLARING  
DETAIL--

WHERE'S YOUR MACE?

WHERE'S YOUR  
**THUNDER-  
STRIKE?**

TRUST ME,  
STORMTROOPER...

YOU'RE  
REALLLLLLLLY  
GONNA HATE MY  
ANSWER!

I...I DON'T  
BELIEVE IT!

Y-YOU'RE SLOWLY  
CLOSING THE GAP  
BETWEEN US!

B-BUT YOU CAN'T BE  
STRONGER THAN ME!

YOU MAY  
WIELD THE  
POWER OF  
**THUNDER-  
STRIKE--**

--BUT I AM  
**THUNDERSTRIKE!**

**BOOM!**

Y-YOU CAUSED  
SOME KIND OF  
BACKLASH THROUGH  
MY MACE...

M-MADE ME  
REVERT TO MY  
HUMAN FORM!

GO AHEAD!  
FINISH ME  
OFF! I'M  
TIRED OF  
THIS LIFE,  
SICK OF  
ALL THE  
VIOLENCE  
AND  
KILLING...

MY GOD! WHEN I THINK  
OF ALL THE TERRIBLE  
THINGS I'VE DONE IN THE  
MASTER'S NAME!

I...I GUESS I WENT  
MAD WITH GRIEF...

AFTER I LOST MY  
SON... KEVIN!



GREAT IS YOUR PHYSICAL PROWESS AND COURAGE... BUT GREATER STILL IS YOUR HUBRIS FOR THINKING YOU COULD PREVAIL AGAINST ME!

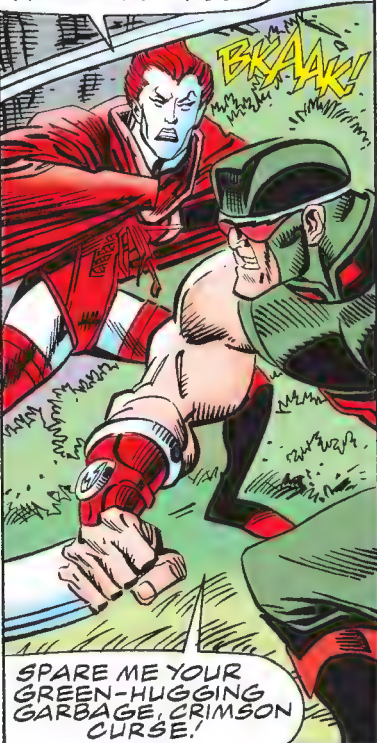
W-WHAT CAN I SAY?

IT WAS WORTH A SHOT.

DO NOT SEEK TO MOCK ME, YOUTH! THOUGH THE MASTER OF THIS WORLD CALLS ME DONAR, STILL AM I THE THUNDER GOD IMMORTAL!

BEWARE, OVERMAN! YOU WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO CONFINE YOUR SAVAGE BLOWS TO ME--

--AND TO KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM THE TREES!



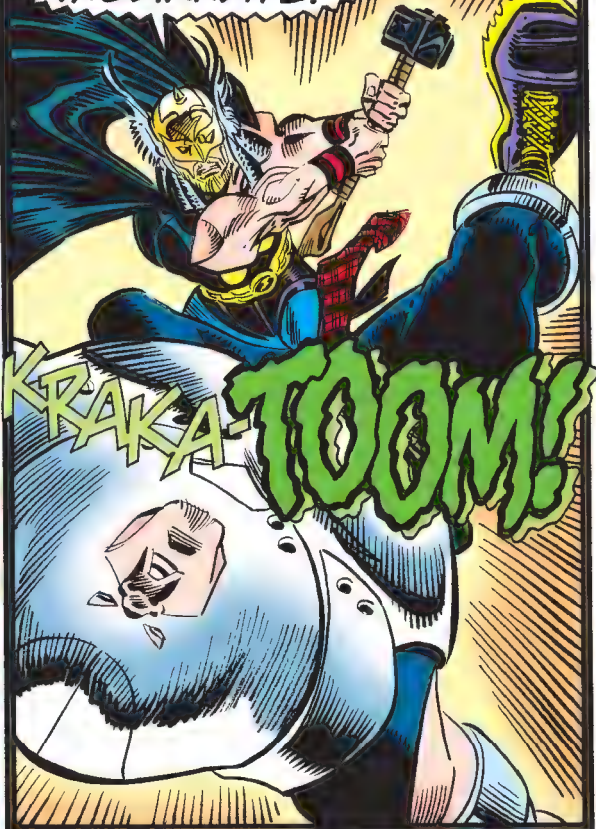
SPARE ME YOUR GREEN-HUGGING GARBAGE, CRIMSON CURSE!

ALL RIGHT--

--BUT DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU!

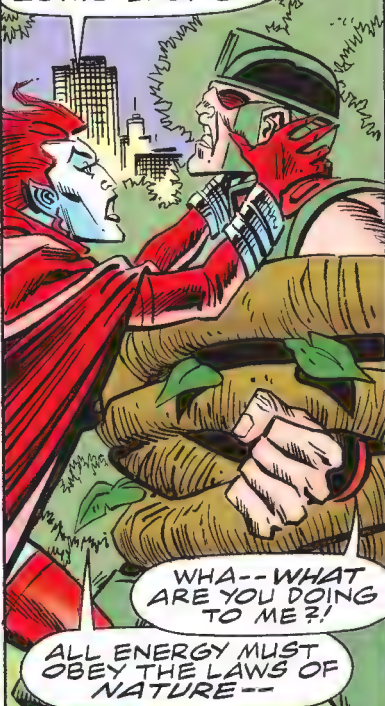


STILL AM I POWER INCARNATE!

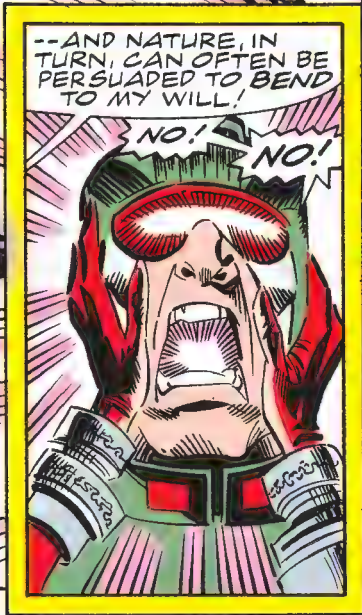


LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO GET IN TUNE WITH YOU!

IF YOU ARE ANYTHING LIKE THE WONDER MAN OF MY WORLD, YOU ARE A BEING COMPOSED OF IONIC ENERGY.





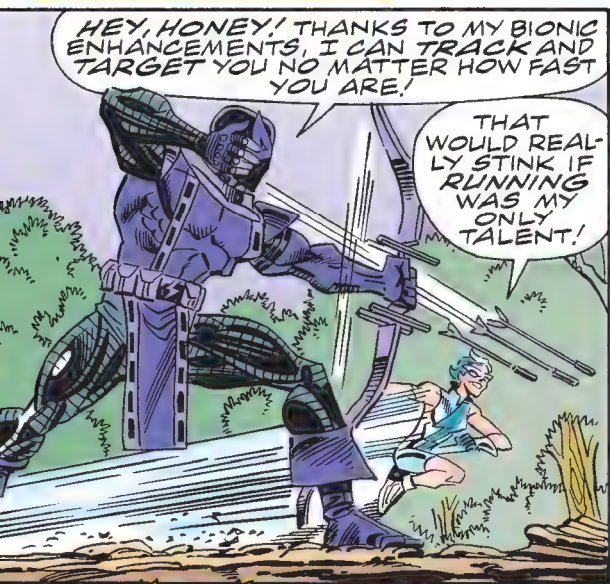
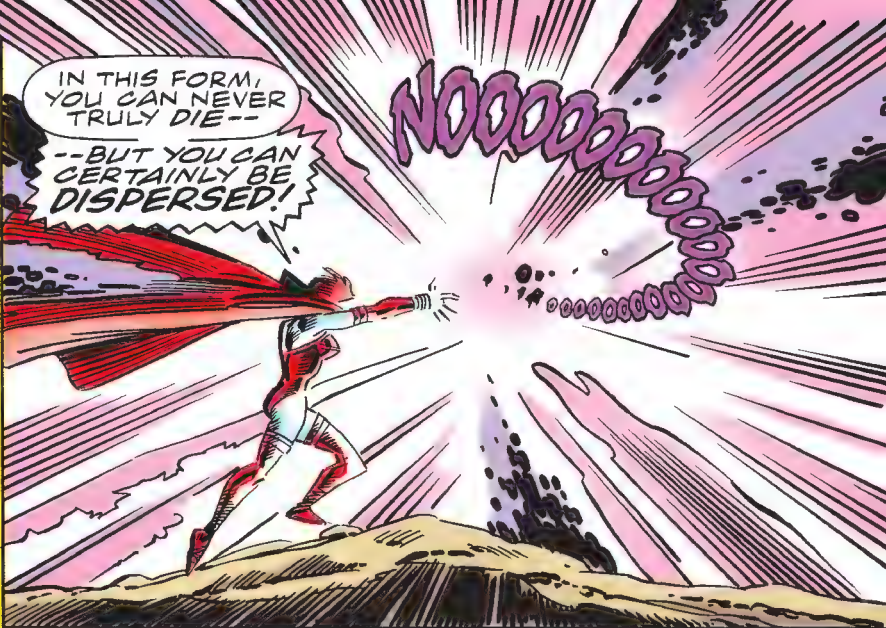


--AND NATURE, IN  
TURN, CAN OFTEN BE  
PERSUADED TO BEND  
TO MY WILL!

NO!  
NO!

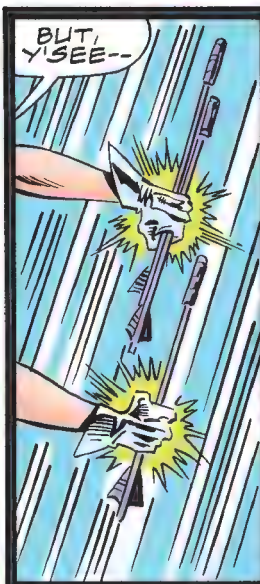
IN THIS FORM,  
YOU CAN NEVER  
TRULY DIE--

--BUT YOU CAN  
CERTAINLY BE  
DISPERSED!

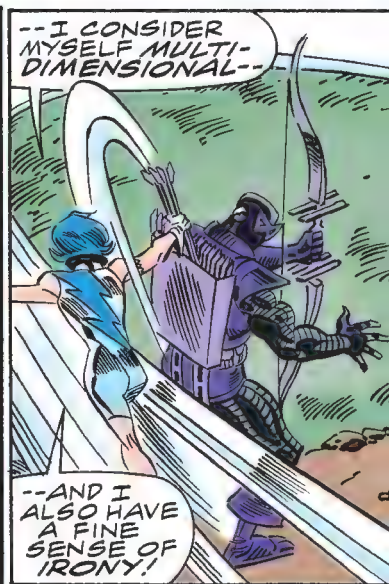


HEY, HONEY! THANKS TO MY BIONIC  
ENHANCEMENTS, I CAN TRACK AND  
TARGET YOU NO MATTER HOW FAST  
YOU ARE!

THAT  
WOULD REAL-  
LY STINK IF  
RUNNING  
WAS MY  
ONLY  
TALENT!

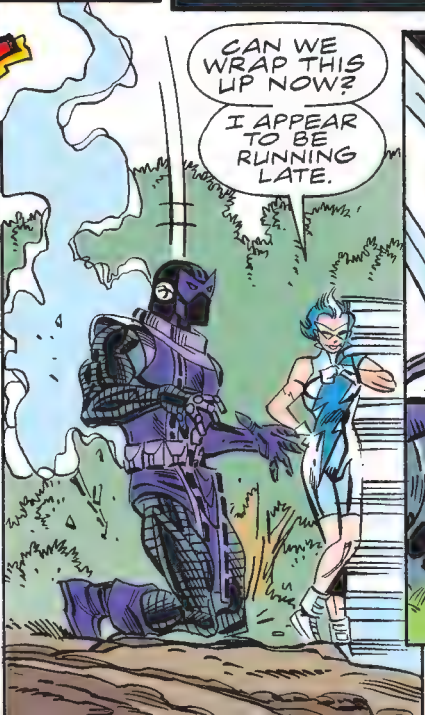
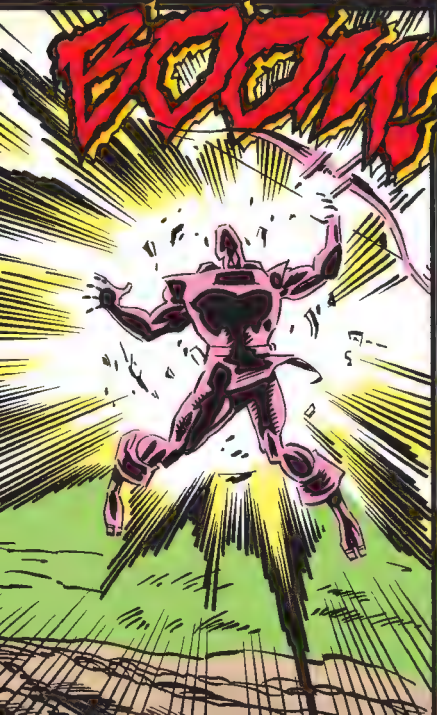


BUT,  
Y'SEE--



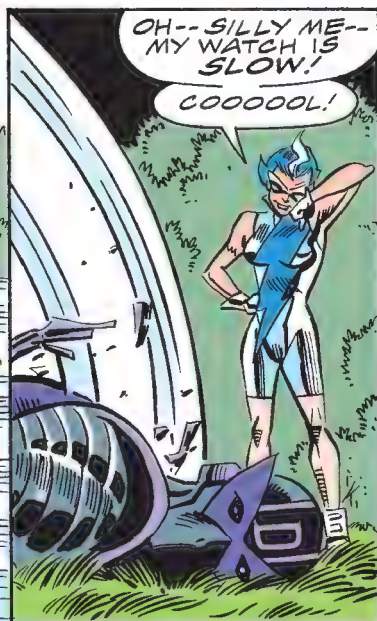
--I CONSIDER  
MYSELF MULTI-  
DIMENSIONAL--

--AND I  
ALSO HAVE  
A FINE  
SENSE OF  
IRONY!



CAN WE  
WRAP THIS  
UP NOW?

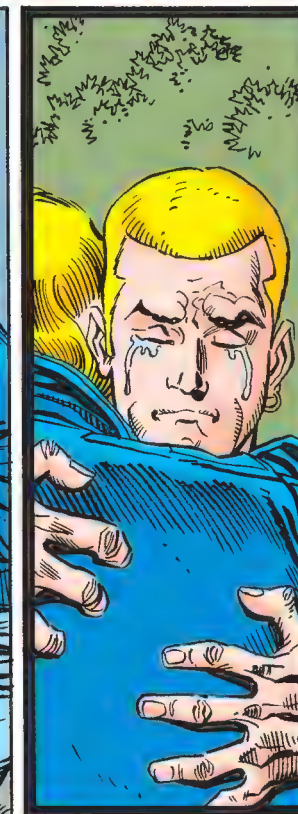
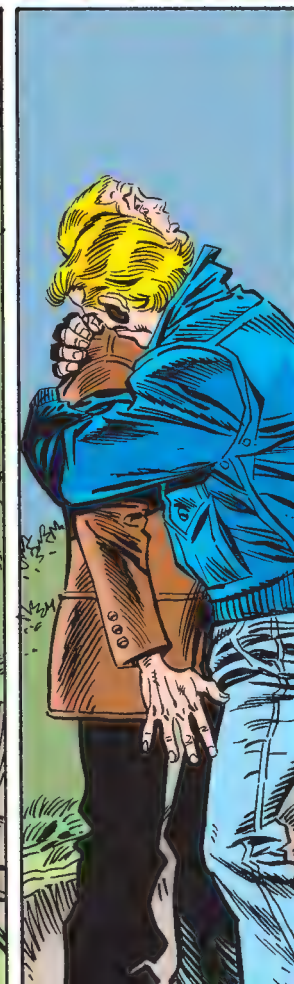
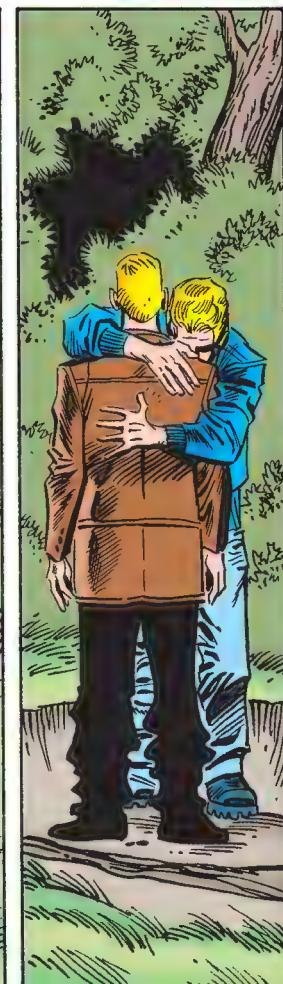
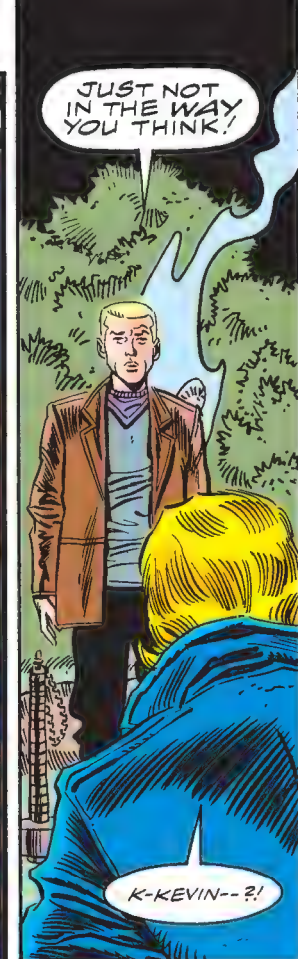
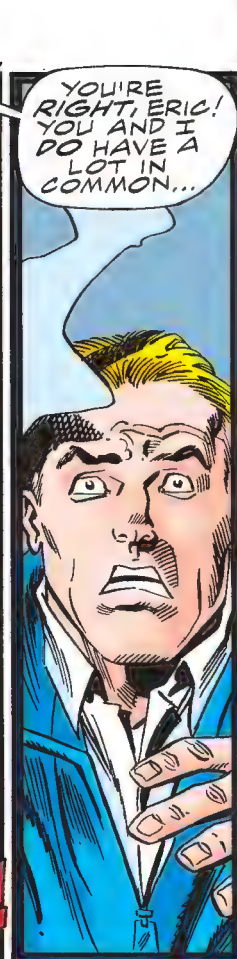
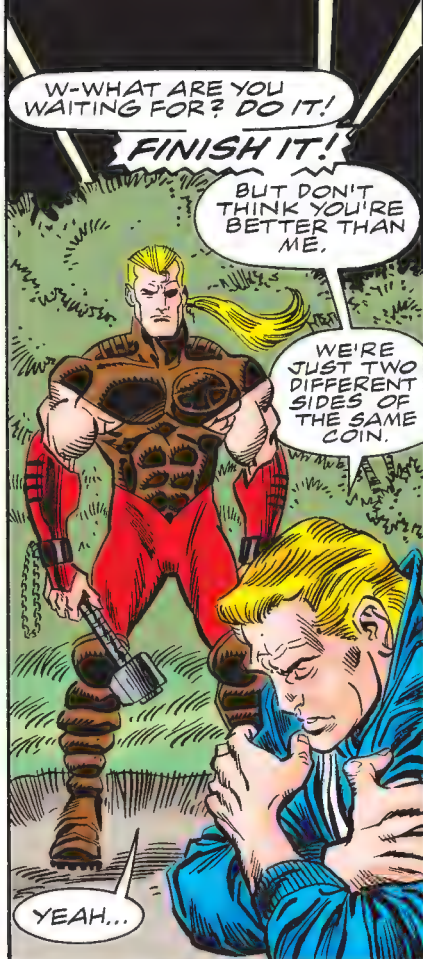
I APPEAR  
TO BE  
RUNNING  
LATE.



OH-- SILLY ME--  
MY WATCH IS  
SLOW!

COOOOOL!





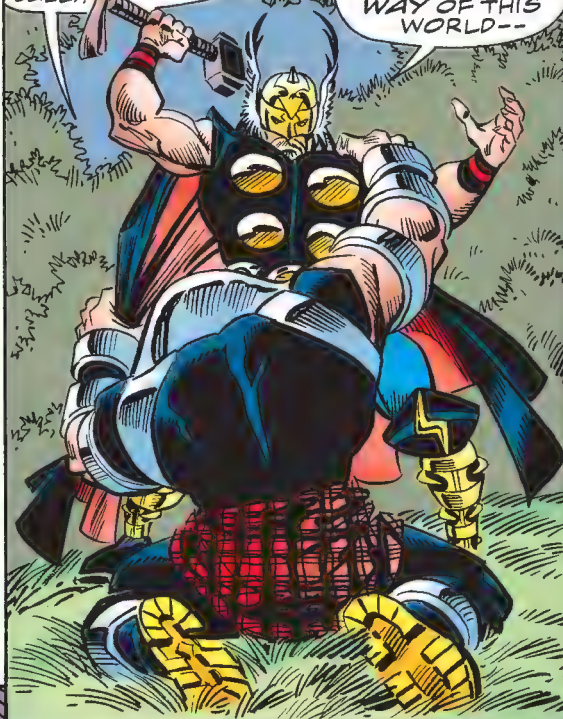


O-ON MY EARTH,  
THOR IS THE  
GREATEST HERO OF  
ALL, BUT YOU--

--Y-YOU'RE A BIG  
BULLY, WORKING FOR  
AN EVEN BIGGER  
BULLY!

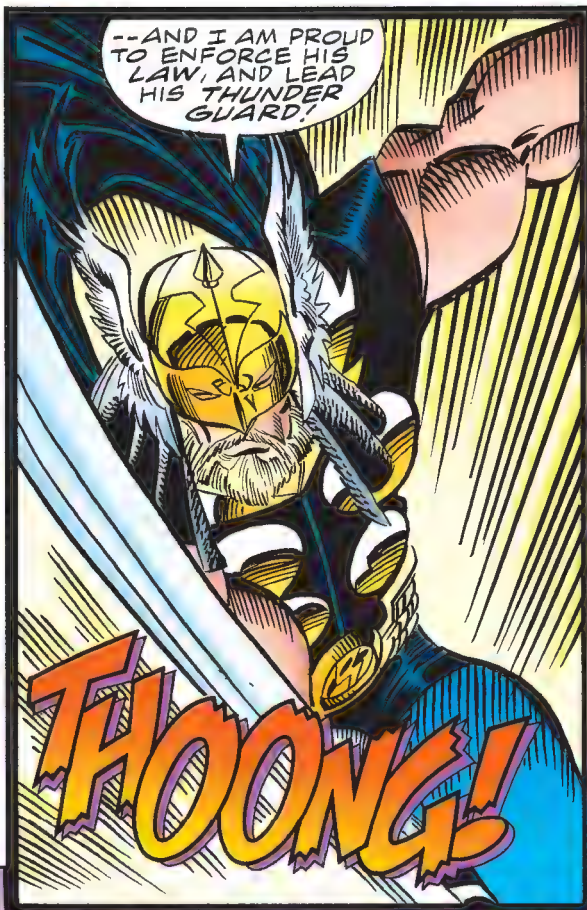
ARE YOU MAD,  
REBEL? THE MASTER  
HAS ERASED  
CRIME, WAR AND  
PESTILENCE.

HE IS THE  
WORD AND THE  
WAY OF THIS  
WORLD--



--AND I AM PROUD  
TO ENFORCE HIS  
LAW, AND LEAD  
HIS THUNDER  
GUARD!

**THOONG!**



BACK AWAY  
FROM THE BOY!  
THUNDER GOD!

LEAVE HIM  
ALONE!

SURTUR'S  
EYES--!



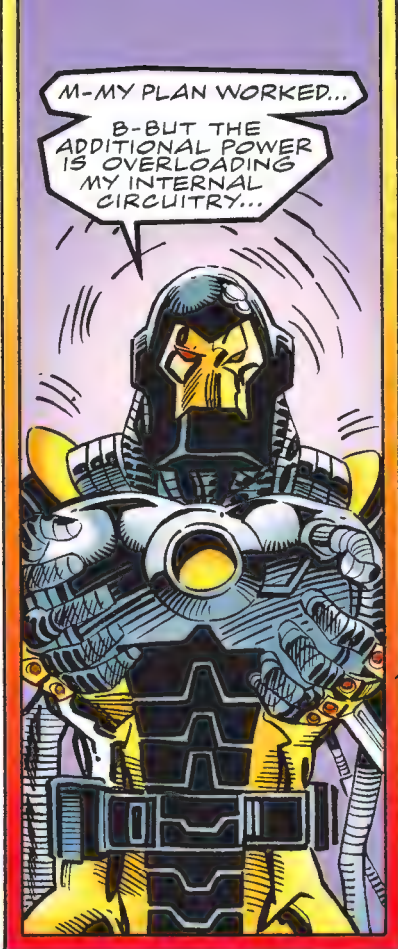




IN CASE YOU  
HAVEN'T GUESSED,  
HE'S A FRIEND  
OF MINE.

AND  
AVENGERS  
WATCH OUT FOR  
EACH OTHER!



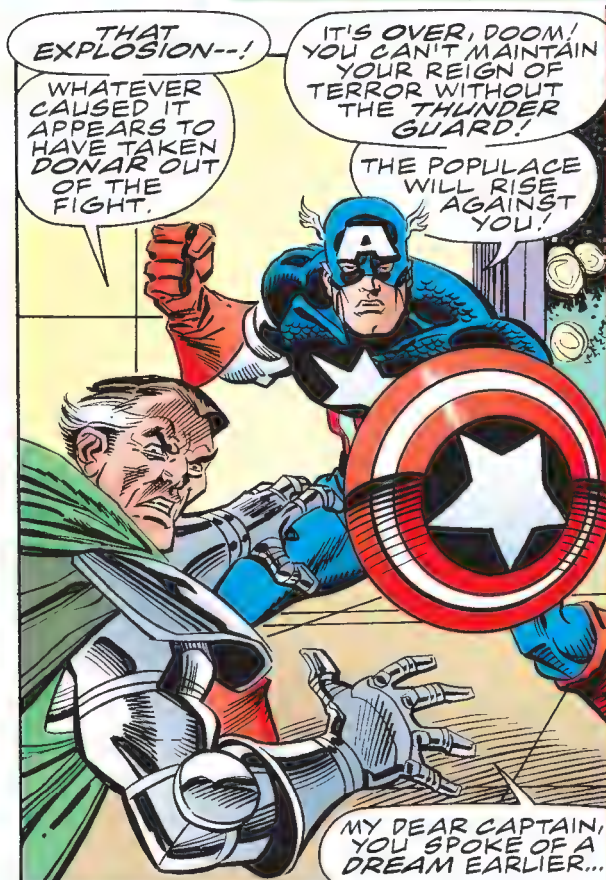


M-MY PLAN WORKED...

B-BUT THE  
ADDITIONAL POWER  
IS OVERLOADING  
MY INTERNAL  
CIRCUITRY...



A-AND  
THAT CAN'T  
BE GOOD?!



THAT  
EXPLOSION--!

WHATEVER  
CAUSED IT  
APPEARS TO  
HAVE TAKEN  
DONAR OUT  
OF THE  
FIGHT.

IT'S OVER, DOOM!  
YOU CAN'T MAINTAIN  
YOUR REIGN OF  
TERROR WITHOUT  
THE THUNDER  
GUARD!

THE POPLACE  
WILL RISE  
AGAINST  
YOU!

MY DEAR CAPTAIN,  
YOU SPOKE OF A  
DREAM EARLIER...

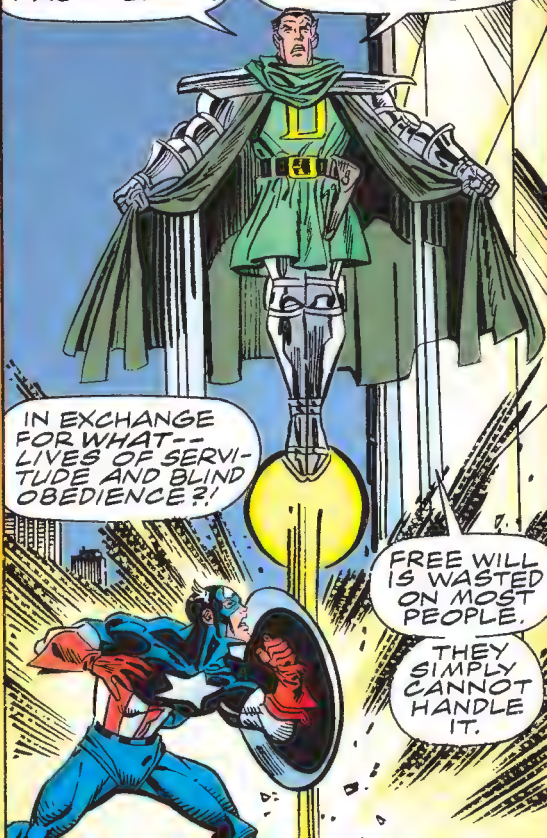
I, TOO, HAVE  
A DREAM... OF  
UNIVERSAL  
PEACE AND  
PROSPERITY!

UNDER MY LEADER-  
SHIP, EVERY PARAL-  
LEL EARTH CAN BE-  
COME A VIRTUAL  
PARADISE!

IN EXCHANGE  
FOR WHAT--  
LIVES OF SERVI-  
TUDE AND BLIND  
OBEDIENCE?!

FREE WILL  
IS WASTED  
ON MOST  
PEOPLE.

THEY  
SIMPLY  
CANNOT  
HANDLE  
IT.





**ARRRGHHH!**

T-T-HIS UNIVERSAL CUBE IS AN ABOMINATION!

I-IT SEEKS TO ABROGATE THE NATURAL ORDER, AND MUST BE DESTROYED!

B-BUT IT SEETHES WITH POWERS AND ENERGIES UNTOLD!

I MUST GATHER ALL MY STRENGTH--ALL MY WILL--TO STAND AGAINST IT!

AND YOU WILL STILL FAIL!

**TZAK!**

I HAVE OUTLAWED MAGIC ON THIS WORLD, WITCH.

PURGED ALL ITS PRACTITIONERS!

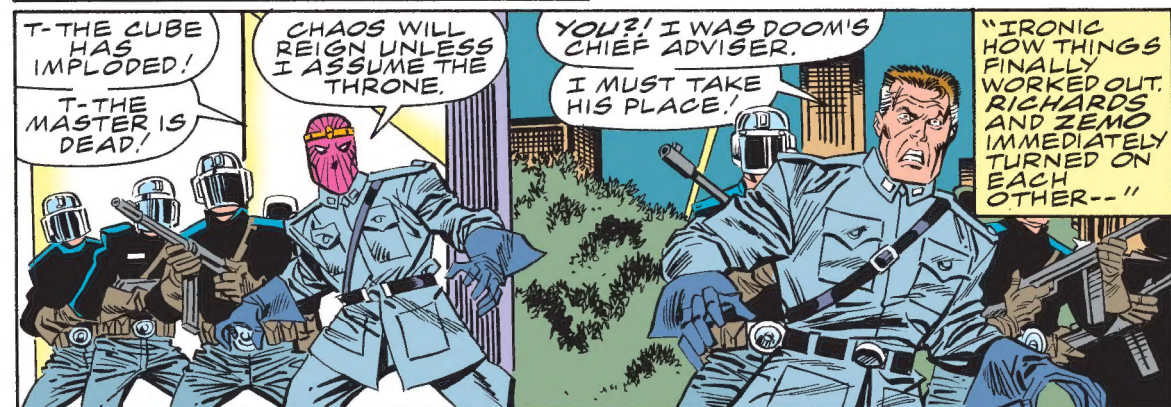
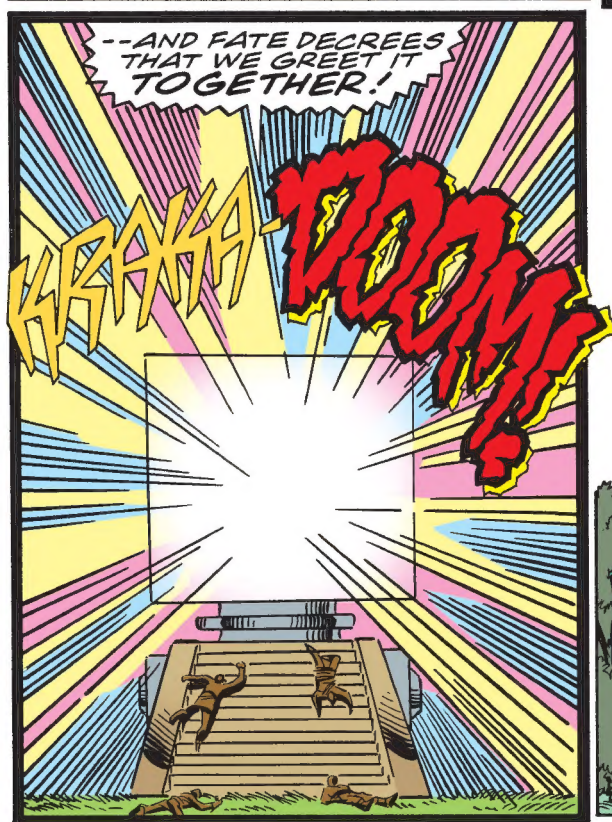
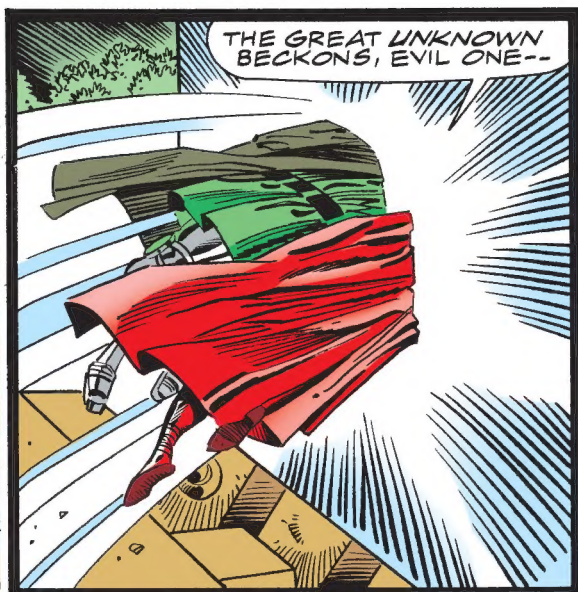
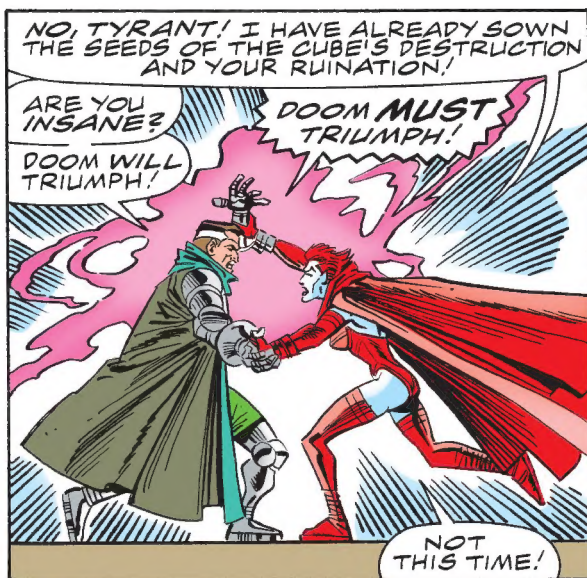
THE SUPERNATURAL AND ALL ITS MYSTERIES ARE THE SOLE DOMAIN OF DOOM!

I AM THE LAWFUL AND LEGITIMATE RULER OF THIS WORLD, AND THE UNIVERSE ENTIRE!

I SHALL NOW EMPLOY THE VAST POWER OF THE CUBE--

--TO CRUSH ALL MY ENEMIES!







--AND ALLOWED US TO SLIP AWAY DURING THE CONFUSION.

EACH DAY THEY CONTINUE TO VIE FOR CONTROL OF BOTH THE **THUNDER GUARD** AND THE GOVERNMENT--

--AND ONLY SUCCEED IN DRIVING MORE AND MORE PEOPLE INTO OUR CAMP.

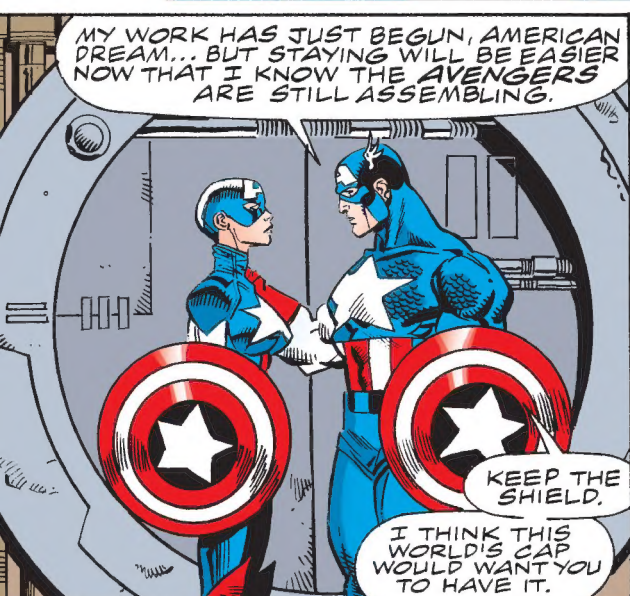


THANKS TO YOU, THIS WORLD MAY YET BE FREE.

I ASSUME YOU INTEND TO REMAIN, SIR.



MY WORK HAS JUST BEGUN, AMERICAN DREAM... BUT STAYING WILL BE EASIER NOW THAT I KNOW THE **AVENGERS** ARE STILL ASSEMBLING.



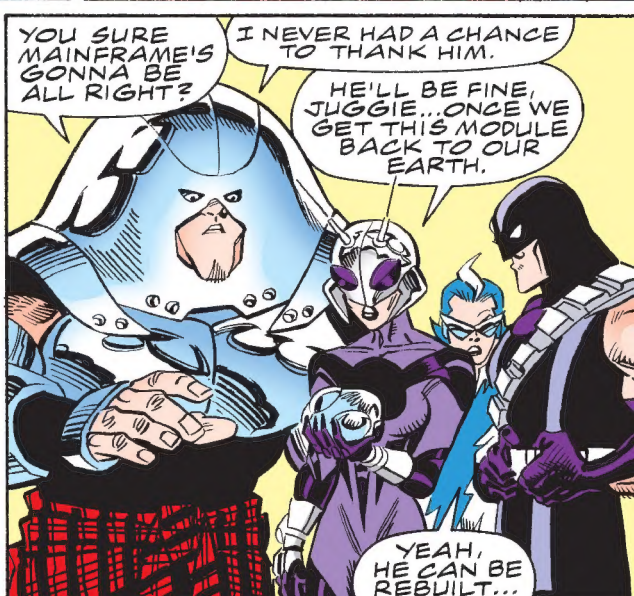
KEEP THE SHIELD.

I THINK THIS WORLD'S CAP WOULD WANT YOU TO HAVE IT.

YOU SURE MAINFRAME'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT?

I NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO THANK HIM.

HE'LL BE FINE, JUGGIE... ONCE WE GET THIS MODULE BACK TO OUR EARTH.



YEAH, HE CAN BE REBUILT...

U-UNLIKE CRIMSON CURSE!

SHE WARNED ME THAT WE'D ALL BE CHANGED BY THIS MISSION.

I WONDER IF SHE KNEW IT WOULD COME FROM HER SACRIFICE.

I... I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D ACTUALLY LOSE AN AVENGER.



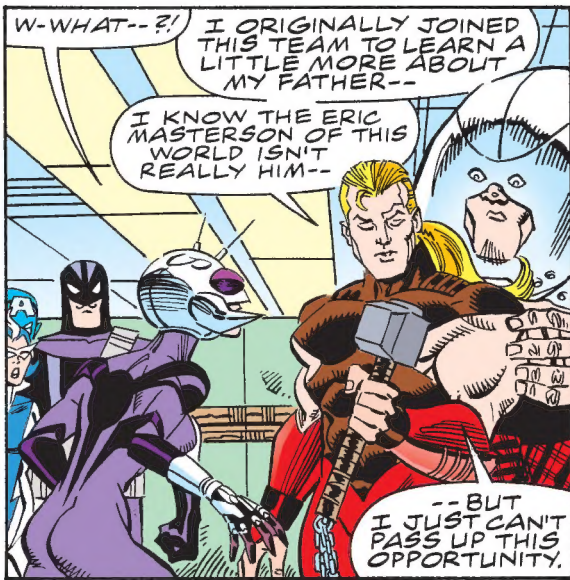
MORE THAN ONE!

I GUESS THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO TELL YOU I'VE COME TO A DECISION...

I'M STAYING BEHIND.





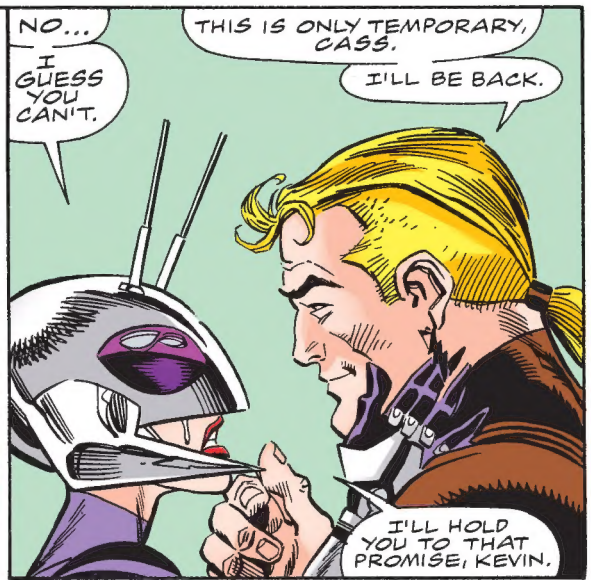


W-WHAT--?!

I ORIGINALLY JOINED THIS TEAM TO LEARN A LITTLE MORE ABOUT MY FATHER--

I KNOW THE ERIC MASTERSON OF THIS WORLD ISN'T REALLY HIM--

--BUT I JUST CAN'T PASS UP THIS OPPORTUNITY.

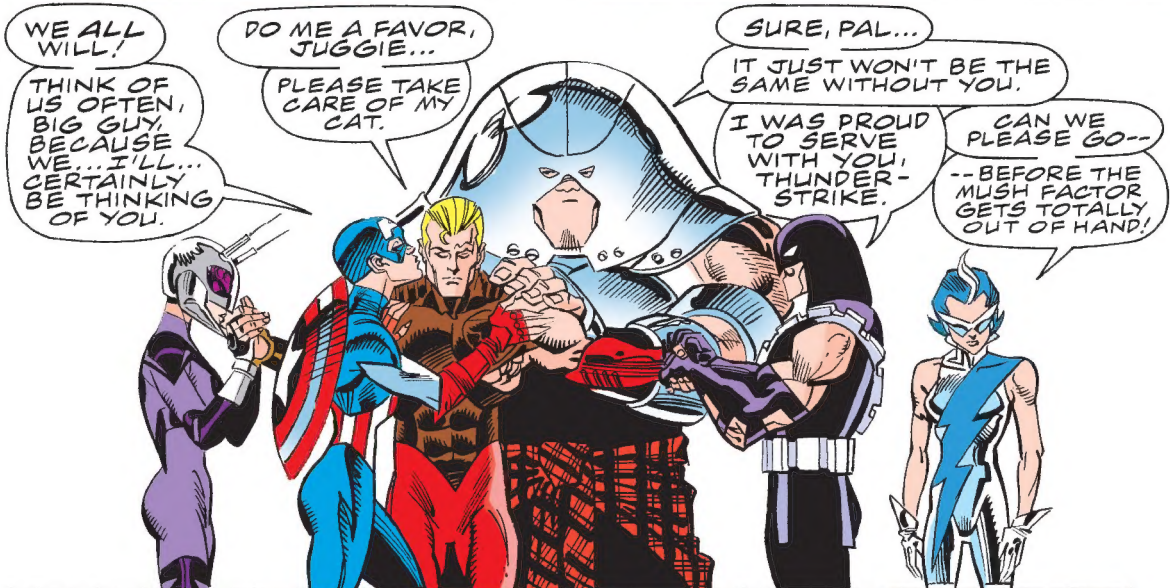


NO...  
I GUESS YOU CAN'T.

THIS IS ONLY TEMPORARY, CASS.

I'LL BE BACK.

I'LL HOLD YOU TO THAT PROMISE, KEVIN.



WE ALL WILL!

DO ME A FAVOR, JUGGIE...

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY CAT.

THINK OF US OFTEN, BIG GUY, BECAUSE WE...I'LL... CERTAINLY BE THINKING OF YOU.

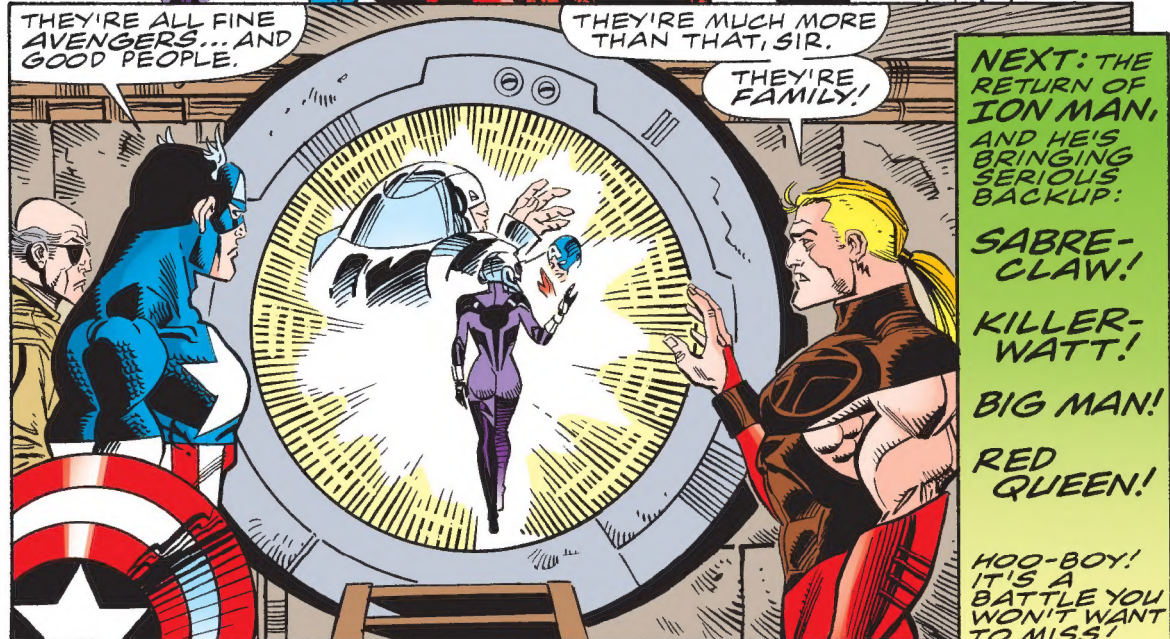
SURE, PAL...

IT JUST WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU.

I WAS PROUD TO SERVE WITH YOU, THUNDER-STRIKE.

CAN WE PLEASE GO--

--BEFORE THE MUSH FACTOR GETS TOTALLY OUT OF HAND!



THEY'RE ALL FINE AVENGERS... AND GOOD PEOPLE.

THEY'RE MUCH MORE THAN THAT, SIR.

THEY'RE FAMILY!

**NEXT: THE RETURN OF ION MAN, AND HE'S BRINGING SERIOUS BACKUP:**

**SABRE-CLAW!**

**KILLER-WATT!**

**BIG MAN!**

**RED QUEEN!**

**HOO-BOY! IT'S A BATTLE YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!**





*Shadowcat*

